

School children go on strike for climate

26th February, 2019



School children around the world have been going on strike. They are unhappy that their governments are doing too little to fight climate change. The strikes are part of a growing international movement called School Strike for Climate. Instead of going to school, students across the globe have been skipping classes to take part in street protests. Many of the protests have been outside government buildings. The movement began in August 2018 when Swedish student Greta Thunberg stood outside Sweden's government every Friday. She held a sign that read: "School strike for climate". Photos of her went viral on social media. Students organized themselves and copied Ms Thunberg's actions.

The movement is growing worldwide. In 2019, strikes have taken place across Europe, North America and Australia. Over 45,000 students protested on one day in Switzerland and Germany. Students have held banners reading, "Why learn without a future?" "If you do not act as adults, we will" and "Like the sea level, we rise." The first worldwide strike will take place on March 15. Many scientists, politicians and teachers congratulated the students for their activism. However, not everyone is on the students' side. Australia's leader called for "more learning in schools and less activism". A journalist in the U.K. wrote: "If children really must wag their fingers at older generations for some imaginary sin, I wish they'd do it at the weekend."

Sources: cnn.com / theguardian.com / spectator.com

Writing

School children should never go on strike. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

school children / government / climate change / globe / street protests / social media / movement / worldwide / protested / sea level / teachers / activism / older generations

True / False

- a) The article said children in Brazil went on strike against climate change. T / F
- b) Children say governments aren't doing enough to fight climate change. T / F
- c) Many protests have been inside government buildings. T / F
- d) The strikes movement was started by a student in Norway. T / F
- e) In 2019, strikes have taken place all over South America. T / F
- f) One day over 45,000 students went on strike in Germany & Switzerland. T / F
- g) A worldwide strike will take place in March. T / F
- h) A journalist wished the students would strike at the weekend. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. too little | a. make-believe |
| 2. growing | b. campaign |
| 3. globe | c. praised |
| 4. movement | d. increasing |
| 5. copied | e. posters |
| 6. taken place | f. followed |
| 7. banners | g. not enough |
| 8. congratulated | h. shake |
| 9. wag | i. happened |
| 10. imaginary | j. world |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of the striking school children?
- b) What would you go on strike for?
- c) Should children be in school or protesting?
- d) What is your government doing about climate change?
- e) Would you be proud of your child for protesting?
- f) What will the children's protests do?
- g) Why is it that only school children are going on strike?
- h) How powerful is social media?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. children around the world have been | a. international movement |
| 2. governments are doing too | b. generations |
| 3. The strikes are part of a growing | c. viral on social media |
| 4. skipping | d. little |
| 5. Photos of her went | e. we rise |
| 6. If you do not act as adults, | f. for their activism |
| 7. Like the sea level, | g. classes to take part |
| 8. teachers congratulated the students | h. students' side |
| 9. not everyone is on the | i. we will |
| 10. older | j. going on strike |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Would you go on strike to protest climate change?
- How big do you think this movement will get?
- Are students right to ask about learning without a future?
- What advice do you have for the school children?
- What would you tell Australia's leader?
- Would it be better for students to strike at the weekend?
- What questions would you like to ask a striking schoolchild?

Spelling

- nsotreevmgn are doing too little
- take part in street sestpotr
- kinippgs classes
- The enmmveto began in August 2018
- Photos of her went raivl on social media
- Students dngaezroi themselves
- Students have held eabsrnn
- scientists, potilicasin and teachers
- more learning in schools and less tcimivas
- A urjantilos in the U.K.
- older neiogasrnet
- some ranmaiylgi sin

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. f
6. i	7. e	8. c	9. h	10. a

Role Play

Role A – Striking

You think striking is the best way to protest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): marching, signing a petition or not paying tax.

Role B – Marching

You think marching is the best way to protest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): striking, signing a petition or not paying tax.

Role C – Signing a Petition

You think signing a petition is the best way to protest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): marching, striking or not paying tax.

Role D – Not Paying Tax

You think not paying tax is the best way to protest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): marching, signing a petition or striking.

Speaking – Protests

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| • strikes | • boycotts |
| • marches | • hunger strike |
| • petitions | • not paying tax |
| • social media | • make a website |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.